March 21, 1979

My dear choi,

Yesterday's trial was one of the worst and the best moments I witnessed during this one-sided trial. The worst was when Papas wouldn't allow Steven Morris and Tink Thompson to appear to testify but would let that Lennon re-enacted a phony stuff before the Jury.

Papas' action defies any decent-minded person's understanding. He's showing his true color. He must have felt guilty of being anti-Asian. That may be why he kept repeating he was bending his back to be fair to the defense and all that stuff. But his remarks clearly demonstrate ----any Asian who listened to him wouldn't have failed to feel in their gut--that he was awfully resentful of the presecne of so many Asians in his courtroom. His name will be remembered in the collective memory of the Korean Americans in this land.

I thought Johnny Spain was good, but I felt a bit sad that he didn't come through during the trial. Elaine Kim's reciting of your poem was heart-breakingx to me. I cherish the poem. Your mom was very nice to two Korean woman visitors from San Diego that day. I thought she went out of her way to be a nice guide to them. The Rev. Cha spoke very sincerely, and I felt those hostile Jurors got his message, I hope.

Of all, Weinglass did his best. His last remark--about the presence of whites in the Jury--was a biting and effective statement response to Papas' racist that few whites were among the courtroom audience, while Asians dominated it. He was trying to make a racial thing out of the whole thing. There are many many whites who feel you have been dealt unfairly in this trial. Many of my colleagues voluntarily came up to me and made such comments after reading my story (enclosed).

But whatever happens, I feel our fight through the higher courts can eventually right the wrongs in your case.

Ranko is busy working with others to present a clear report on the Stockton trial to our people. She thought the parts of your letters to me (redlined) would be useful in our future educational drive. She asks me to write you for your permission (if you feel it's okay after giving it serious review) to use the paragraphs in our drive. Magagnini has just returned from Stockton (this

is 630 p. m. He said Weinglass gave a great closing statement. racist character of San Joaquin County until I actually witnessed your trial. I have heard so much about this goddamned county as being California's Mississippi but didn't believe it. I feel very much drained. But, Choi, your courage has lifted us all.